

**Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Regular Meeting
November 19th, 2020**

Members Present: Tomika Moore, Sonya Harper, Kendra King, Kevin Poirier, Judge Faith Fickling-Alvarez, T.L. Larry, Russell Price, Lt. Robert Childs, Janelle Fleck, Jason Tryon, Heather Taraska, Dr. Keith Cradle, Phyllis Barnette, Tysha Shaw, Yosani Zerai, Jessica Davis, Tomika Moore, Ashley Titus

Staff Present: Scott Stoker, Elizabeth Swann

Guests Present: Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Darryl & Robin Sturdivant-Team Up Connections, Thompson Residential- LaDonte Lee, Thompson Assessment- Dr. Becky Smith-Thompson Court Assessment, Nalo Coban- Achieving Success on Purpose, Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD Youth Diversion, Reggie McNeil-TYM (SHIFT), Glenn Smith-DASH Life Connections, Alma Moore – DASH Mentoring, DASH-SFP- Angela Reid,

Members Absent: Commissioner Pat Cotham, Wanda Douglas, Dr. Cotrone Penn, Denise Steele-Campbell, Jaylen Adams, Brittney Bogues

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by the Chair Kevin Poirier.

Review and Approval of November 19th, 2020 Agenda:

Kevin allowed council members to review the agenda. Heather Taraska moved to accept the agenda. Judge Faith Fickling-Alvarez seconded. The council unanimously approved the agenda.

Review and Approval of October 15th Minutes

Kevin allowed council members to review the minutes. Heather Taraska moved to accept the minutes. Jessica Davis seconded. The council approved the minutes.

Welcome

JCPC Chair Kevin Poirier took attendance by having the council members say present in order to keep an attendance log for meeting being virtual. Quorum was established.

Announcements / Reminders

The attendance requirement is now 65% of all regularly scheduled committee meetings.

The inclusion of special and assigned subcommittee meetings is no longer applicable, its 65% of all regularly scheduled meetings. There are no excused absences. Members cannot miss three consecutive regularly scheduled committee meetings. To have action in the subcommittee meetings there must be a quorum to be able to vote.

Budget Revision: Tresports

Scott Stoker from NCDPS shared that last month he reported out on the final accounting paybacks of all the programs and Tresports owe back \$7170.00. Tresports asked for a waiver for this year due to when they completed their budget revision it took off some in kind dollars that they felt they didn't need but they've already spent it and can prove it was spent. It would have affected their payback from \$7,000 to about half and they've asked for that on October 19th. Yesterday the NCDPS department agreed to allow that waiver because of COVID-19 and other things going on. The NCDPS department wanted to make sure that the JCPC council approved the budget revision. Once approved it would go thru the late

budget revision, then to county finance to review. Tresports still owes funds back, however it wouldn't be as much.

Tresports addressed when COVID-19 started in March 2020, schools went virtual and they had to adjust their programs, which meant they would not be picking up the children from school and transporting to the program. Part of the in-kind money were related to transportation drivers for the program which were not used for March, April, May and beginning of June which affected the in-kind donation of \$6,400. A budget revision was completed on June 19th for volunteer drivers which cause Tresports to have a refund of \$7,000 but there are other expenses that can account to help reduce the cost.

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the allowance of a budget revision from FY 19-20. Heather Taraska made a motion to approve. Sonya Harper seconded. The council approved the budget revision for Tresports.

Budget Revision: Thompson Residential

Thompson is requesting to move \$2,500 from line item # 290 Supplies & Materials to line #390 Other Services to support the apprentice program. Mr. Lee clarified that young men who are interested in participating would partner up with the campus maintenance team after school and upon completion of their virtual learning experience. From 3-5PM they use a sign out sheet to go on campus where they rake leaves, pick up trash, work on landscaping, scrub floors, clean windows exposing them to custodial and lawn maintenance skills. Three young men recently received their paycheck for completing some of those chores. Thompson would like to offer that opportunity for all young men that come thru their program.

Kevin explained why the budget revision forms look different from Tresports to Thompson Residential. Tresports budget revision was to allow them to do a budget revision for FY 19-20 which the NCDPS has also approved but they required JCPC approval as well.

Discussions:

Sonya Harper commended Thompson in looking for apprenticeship and training opportunities within their program. Sonya's concern from the county's position is what they are proposing with the apprenticeship exceeds what the scope of their original proposal and program agreement entails. Scott stated since there was a modification to their program agreement and the stipend of paying kids part of the service, which is benefiting Thompson, would have to be approved by the JCPC council. Kevin inquired if the JCPC council is approving a budget revision or a modification of the program agreement for Thompson? Sonya added that's the concern on the county's side there is a request to move funds from one line # to another, for a service that was never proposed and doesn't currently exist in the contract. The contract is strictly for residential services, it's not for an apprenticeship. The JCPC also funds programs that offer vocational opportunities.

T.L. Larry with The Council for Children's Rights asked can we modify the existing scope and agreement with the county to allow the budget modification because the youth that he serves everyday enjoys the apprenticeship program. Sonya shared that if the JCPC were to vote in favor of the change then the county would have to look to modify the contract and proceed thru the county's approval process. The county moves forward with the contracts in accordance to what the JCPC approves.

Judge Faith Fickling-Alvarez added that thru her work with the juvenile court on the delinquency side, during this time of COVID-19 it is a success. Whether it is abiding by probation or establishing healthy and safe activity in relationships around juveniles gaining employment and or entering an apprentice

type program. This is one of the programs that we have seen the successes. If this is the step, we will have to take to move forward with supporting the change in the contract, I support it.

Tomika inquired if the change takes place, then there needs to be a revision to the county contract? Scott explained once JCPC approves, it will go to the county for the contract to be signed, then the revision approval will go thru signature approval, once signed, hopefully all of this will take place in 30 days. Tomika posed the question are there any guidelines on contract changes, as the concern would be how many more programs would try to change their contract agreements? Sonya reiterated from the county's position that the request in fact is something that is outside the scope of what was originally proposed, which is allowing a program to create a new service that the JCPC would then fund. This request is more than just a budget revision it is in fact a change in the scope of the project.

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the budget revision for Thompson Residential. T.L. Larry made a motion to approve. Judge Faith Fickling-Alvarez seconded.

- Sonya Harper voted no to the budget revision
- Tomika Moore voted no to the budget revision
- Janelle Fleck abstain from voting

The council approved the budget revision for Thompson Residential.

Updated JCPC By-Laws

Kevin advised that the program updates were moved to the last part of the meeting, to go thru the number of items that required voting while we have a quorum.

The revisions to the JCPC By-Laws were discussed in the October meeting and we are ready to cast voting. The JCPC By-Laws were placed online for viewing which the By-Laws committee had discussion on the revision, the JCPC By-Laws are reviewed annually. Kevin asked if all were comfortable with a vote on approval of the revisions which were required by the State of North Carolina including our information about remote meetings and participations.

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the JCPC By-Laws. Heather Taraska made a motion to approve. Tomika Moore seconded.

The council approved the JCPC By-Laws.

Kevin thanked the Risk & Needs committee for meeting and discussing the preparation for RFP for FY21-22. Kevin shared the RFP on the screen for viewing.

Kendra King shared the Risk & Needs committee met this past Monday and they were able to finalize the agreement and what they felt the RFP needed to reflect based off the data from last year that Scott presented.

- The program type languages were updated.
- The main changes that were made to the RFP were on pg. 3, the Individual, Family, School, and Peer domains were updated to reflect the data. There were 14 program types, a few were taken off.
- The award period was added on due to the new law change: Mecklenburg County has the option to approve programs for funding to serve for one or two years, depending upon availability of fund set forth by the county and legislative budgets and the program meeting of county requirements.
- Programs are eligible to provide services remotely or virtually during issuance of State of Emergency. Those services must be approved by the JCPC and NCDPS.

Those are the main changes and it is the same template that JCPC has had for the last few years. Kendra stated if the JCPC members wanted to receive a copy of the RFP to review and possibly approve the changes at the next meeting. Kevin stated he wouldn't like to have a December meeting in order to give the council a month off to enjoy time with their families. Kevin stated coming back in January, there will be a lot of meetings. Kevin asked if the Risk & Needs committee can think about the RFP dates and in the January meeting we can vote to approve. The funding committee will need to meet and discuss the scoring process and tool which will be ready for the January meeting to vote on. Kendra mentioned she can request to have a brief Risk & Needs committee meeting before the general JCPC council meeting to plug in the RFP dates.

Kevin reiterated for the new JCPC members this is the process by which the RFP application is submitted. The JCPC has \$2,051,713, were calling for proposals, they will then put together their application and send it to us for our review.

Judge Fickling-Alvarez mentioned that the Risk & Needs committee did an exemplary job by going line by line and taking out the extraneous content and applying the data. It doesn't mean that every single issue is not important, it means we can't fund every single program when we must funnel it based on the data and where we see the highest risk and needs. Kevin advised we will hold off on voting, it will be sent out to the council members knowing that the only thing that we're adding in are the dates.

Monthly Program Update Form

Kevin shared that positive feedback was received from programs to express some challenges in filling out the form. Being responsive we met as an executive committee, looked at changing the form to make it more concise and clearer, nothing in terms of the information has changed. We've added the kind of participation and have set up a table making it clearer on what juveniles were admitted. Is it for the past full calendar month which is the prior month starting on the 1st until the last day of the month? Example report for December will include November 1st to November 30th. When the form is due in October 8th it's kind of confusing when we're asking for those numbers, so modifications have been made there. Created year to date, which is easier to read, how much JCPC money have you spent to date (last day of previous month) clarified that as well.

Just to provide some clarity for programs so that they know what the expectations is for when they're supposed to report. Hope this will make the process easier and wanted to be receptive to the feedback but not changing the nature of receiving the update.

The programs will still submit a monthly report for the month of December, the same schedule will be followed, however there will not be report out by the programs.

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the revision and we will send the updated monthly form out to programs to begin filling out. Jessica Davis made a motion to approve the updated monthly form. Russell Price seconded. The council approved the monthly revised updated form.

Program Updates and Client Tracking Data - sent to JCPC council members via email for their review

Kevin posted the tracking sheet online for viewing, this is the client count for number served, serve year to date in referrals. As each of the program presents, Kevin will pull up their report. No specific questions were received, but there was a general question proposed for all programs.

- What percentage of the youth served by your organization have failed 1 or more classes during the 1st semester of 20-21 academic year?
- If appropriate what ways is your organization able to assist youth with tutoring to ensure that they succeed in school?
- What ways is your organization able to assist you with the testing or implementation?

- What ways is your organization able to link youth ages 16 or older who have historically done poorly in school and are unlikely to graduate to alternative educational opportunities such as vocational, GED programs and charter schools.

DASH Strengthening Families Program

For DASH we have served to date 35 kids, 4 are waiting, and another 4 who have re-engaged and admitted, which is a total of 8, out of that 2 have completed for the last month for our success story. It goes towards one of the new service that we provide with SFP because we are anywhere from a 3 to 7 week session in order to evaluate how the program has impact education, homelife and social activities and adverse experiences we have allowed a social worker to work with the families. Especially those that are identified as high risk, which is done outside of SFP, so anyone that has completed the program they have a social worker that stays with them for 6 months that helps in those areas. It helps us to gage how our program has impacted.

Addressing one of your questions a lot of the families are now seeing deficits in reading and math now that the kids are home doing the work. The families have requested assistance in getting tested for IEP, so we are in the process of working with them and the social worker to complete. The barriers now that everything is virtual is getting a response back in a timely manner. The success story is utilization of the social workers and leadership. The challenges are as follows; Illiteracy issues from families. Needed translation services. Issues with technology. Multiple services ordered by the court. Therefore, some families attended less sessions this month.

DASH Mentoring

For DASH Mentoring we have served to date 58 kids, 38 are waitlisted, and 6 successful terminations. We asked for 15% less money than we received the previous fiscal year and yet we were cut 20% with the cuts that were administered across the board. At that time at the end of the fiscal year we had over 20 youth as one of the programs that had found a way to service youth during the pandemic. That meant a 35% cut of JCPC funds from the previous year. The coronavirus pandemic, homelessness, hunger, virtual platforms, etc. have increased our costs. We need more resources to meet the needs of youth who are marginalized by society more now than ever before.

Discussion:

Do you work with the homelessness population and how does that directly impact your funding from mentoring services for DJJ youth?

DASH mentoring doesn't work directly with the homelessness population, its not in the scope of their program agreement. They have encompassed referral kids that are homeless and living in hotels, at that time they make the proper referrals

Have you had any DJJ youth that have experience homelessness?

95% of our referrals come from juvenile courts, so the answer is yes, and we notified the proper authorities

DASH Vocational Learning Community

For DASH Vocational we have served to date 10 kids, 6 are waitlisted. Homelessness, domestic violence, sex trafficking, lack of working phones, lack of Internet service, and consistent phone number and address changes, etc. create the need for extra outreach and care assisting these youth.

The ongoing issues with the coronavirus, the turbulent 2020 Presidential election, racial injustices, and other problems of the world have exacerbated problems for youth and families labeled "at risk."

Mentors are giving of their time to locate youth, counsel, mentor and refer youth and families to

community resources available. Some constantly move and live in several places while yearning to prepare for their GED, find employment, keep employment, etc. One of our students recently had his ankle monitor removed after having it on for ten months. While working with his DASH mentors, he was allowed to use their phone to call in for SAIOP sessions. (The youth had two phones that didn't work.) He attended more SAIOP sessions when he was with DASH Mentors than any other time sessions. This young man not only attends classes daily; he logs in an average of 10-15 independent study hours of work weekly. When he started with the DVLC, his goal was to complete ninth grade. He was in 8th grade and is 16 years old. He is now at 9th grade level and is well on his way preparing for the GED test.

TreSports - Projected to serve 60 youths. They have served 24 to date. TreSports will be planning and participating in Giving Tuesday which is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. We partner with Share Charlotte every year as a participant in the various events and initiatives geared towards community awareness and the importance of donating to non-profits. No challenges experienced for this month, however a reduce number of referrals received, but we understand the number of clients in courts have been reduced as well.

Some success stories are some of the participants were able to be involved with the get out and vote initiative. They shared the importance of voting, for some it was their first time. The participants also created a public service announcement video that was published via to our social media platform. We will be having 10 graduates in the fall from the Tresports program.

CMPD Youth Diversion - Projected to serve 400 youths. They have served 116 to date., juveniles admitted this month were 16, number of participants were 49, successful terminations were 2, and no one is waitlisted. All our referrals are coming from law enforcement officers. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) Research and Planning Division continuously looks for grants incase the Youth Diversion Program no longer receives funding. The recent grant found was for Opioid programming and doesn't open until January 2021. This grant would only address substance use. There were over 20 Diversion participants that applied for the 2020 Winternship which allows students to gain work experience for their resume and learn entry-level jobs for 5 weeks of virtual training. Over 10 were selected and began their training modules. We have an academic program called future leaders, youths who are not doing well academically are placed into the class and he teaches them what type of learners they are. For failing students, we have opened our police activities PAL if they are having difficulty logging on or staying focused.

YDI Family Life skills Academy – Currently have 3 participants who have successfully graduated and 8 are pending. The feedback from this program is parents and juveniles are finding it relevance, training that is engaging and developing real world skills. Its an opportunity for them to connect with caring adults in a meaningful way. The program provides food support and an outlet from the home. Just seeking more DJJ referrals. Have other alternative sources waiting to refer but have been directly told that DJJ has priority. One FLA program completer and his parent reported that he used his YDI life skills training to recently secure his own job at Walmart. The juvenile said his training in YDI provided him both the knowledge and confidence to answer the questions during the interview, which resorted to him being hired.

Mecklenburg Vocational & Career I - Currently have 23 participants, and 5 juveniles were admitted. YDI staff participated in three CFT sessions with juvenile clients, their parent(s), therapists, court counselors, attorneys and other care takers to address immediate social, emotional and service needs. YDI successfully initiated training sessions for students in confinement and have served as a vital transition element to a juvenile returning home. Arrangements meetings are made with the children's therapist to make sure they take advantage of those opportunities. Currently the students are writing their resumes and learning interview skills. On the vocational side the students are learning to put down flooring and drywall, utilizing power tools which is relevant to carpentry skills. We are also using it as an opportunity moving into the job phase to get paid for their skills. Regarding the education question, we only provide space, equipment and internet connection for those students who come into the facility during school hours. Applying for funding with the Women's Impact Fund, Trust and Foundation for The Carolinas.

Mecklenburg Vocational & Career II - Currently have 11 participants, and 2 juveniles were admitted this month. Contact is made with court counselor with an update on the termination status of the juvenile. Applying for funding with the Women's Impact Fund and other local grant opportunities.

A Termination Summary is generated and put in the juvenile file along with the NC ALLIES Data Report.

Discussions:

Do you partner with any companies, business or potential employment opportunities to work with the students?

Not at this present time, due to COVID businesses have been somewhat reluctant. We are currently looking into those opportunities for our students to be a part of that working segment.

Achieving Success on Purpose - Currently have 5 participants, and 3 juveniles were admitted this month. We are actively seeking donations from local businesses, meeting with community partners, and researching grant opportunities. Participant SL entered the program with high dysfunction, poor academic performance, cannabis abuse disorder and strained relationship with biological mother. SL has physically fought mother's boyfriend on multiple occasions. Since entering the program, family communication has improved. SL boasts that communication is much better between he and his mother. Mother's boyfriend expressed that he had misunderstood SL during their previous altercations. The family is practicing healthy communication strategies to understand and validate each other's perspectives. This has improved the overall mood of each person in the home. SL is currently working on improving his grades now that he is no longer emotionally distracted from the friction taking place in the home

Thompson Court Assessment - Juveniles Admitted this month: 4 (72 consults) Number of Participants this month: 7 open for assessments, Successful Terminations this month: 4, Served to Date as of this month: 21 assessments, 292 consults. To date in the history of our program, we have never had a termination that we have deemed "unsuccessful. A case is only formally opened if a child participates in an assessment. Any participation is considered successful. Per our program agreement, each youth in our program must be directly referred by a juvenile court counselor. We have ongoing contact with the court counselor (and other stakeholders) throughout the assessment process until termination, and often for follow-up consultation services after the provision of a written assessment report. It is noted that our program was significantly impacted by the JCPC budget reduction for the current fiscal year, necessitating the reduction of one of our full-time clinicians to being part-time. This resulted in decreasing our overall number of youths projected to be served, having less shared responsibility for the extensive number of case consultations and participation in meetings, and being able to serve fewer youth simultaneously at any given point in time. We had two youth receive greatly reduced legal consequences based that what were anticipated based, in part, upon recommendations from our

assessments and specific treatment services being recommended. We have also participated in heavily in consultations this month for two complex cases for which we have no formal assessment involvement, in hopes of securing the most appropriate legal and clinical outcomes for these youths.

Thompson Residential - Currently have 6 participants, and 6 juveniles were admitted this month, served to date for this month was 18. Thompson is committed to the long-term sustainability of all its programming, including the DACJJ Short Term Residential Program. Thompson believes that all youth should not linger in detention facilities awaiting placement or mental health treatment. Our short-term residential programming is tailored to the needs of youth involved with the Mecklenburg County DACJJ. The program provides step-down care from secure settings, reduces time spent in detention, eliminates unnecessary hospitalizations, and prevents unnecessary placement into the custody of social services. Historically, this program has relied on joint funding from the JCPC and Mecklenburg County. Without JCPC's financial contribution, many courts involved youth would not have this alternative placement option. We had youth who chose to AWOL from the program in October. Thompson provided additional training to staff on AWOL prevention strategies. Despite some of our youth having challenges in October, there were more good days than bad. Days where youth chose to make the right decision, support each other, try to further their education and their development. Youth participated in art activities, educational activities and fun group activities for the Halloween holiday. Youth engaged in a paid apprenticeship program as well

After a year in the role, Thompson's Case Manager is departing to work at Meck County DJJ. These responsibilities are being covered by existing staff and a backfill for this role is in process.

Discussions:

What is the status of the 4 AWOL youths and what is your AWOL prevention procedure/protocol?

We have allowed the youths back into the program working on some minor issues. The procedure is to abide by the expectations set by the courts and DJJ, if a client decides to leave campus, we are hands off, we don't do restraints. A police report is completed with the information we have on the client along with a photo ID and then the case manager makes the court counselor aware. We also notified the guardian that the client has gone AWOL. We discuss interventions and preventions strategies with our staff on how to encourage a client to cooperate with the program.

Transforming Youth Movement - Juveniles Admitted this month: 5, Number of Participants this month: 43, Successful Terminations this month: 9, Served to Date as of this month: 77. TYM Inc conducts home visits when it is safe to do so. Solicit help from DJJ to assist our team with reiterating to the family and/or client the importance of completing at least one hour of community service per month. This can be through a conference call or Zoom meeting. We are continuing to pursue collaborations and funding to support several trauma-informed support services for youth already in our programs and the greater community. We have also started collaborating with Toys for Tots to sponsor youth and families in our programs in need of help with Christmas this year. Any changes to the Program structure, personnel, etc. that the council should know about:

TYM Inc. had a personnel change. Jalen Marlowe departed the company, effective October 16, 2020. We are very appreciative of all the hard work that Jalen Marlowe has done for us over the last 3 years and they will be missed. Our leadership team would personally like to wish Jalen Marlowe the best of success in all future endeavors; but we are pleased to have Natia "Tia" Abdullah to join our team. Tia has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Social Work. She is dedicated to inspiring positive social change and community transformation among youth.

Team Up Connections – we are currently trying to work on community partnership with Charlotte Mecklenburg schools. We had problems trying to have the kids at the church at a certain time, to cover the hours for schooling. Having other service functions going on at the church was creating a problem, we are still in the process of working to provide space for those students.

Bunk 57 Ministries report was not received.

Committee Reports:

State	N/A
County	N/A
Marketing Committee	N/A
Monitoring Committee	N/A
Risk &Needs Committee	RFP with dates were sent out for review to members
Funding Committee	Meeting scheduled for the 1 st of the year
By-Laws Committee	N/A
Nominating Committee	N/A
Program Support	N/A
Executive Committee	N/A

Kevin thanked everyone for their time and commitment, there will not be a meeting in December.

Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn, Kendra made a motion to adjourn. Russell seconded. Meeting ended at 6:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Swann